

09/068278

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application Serial Number: PCT/EP97/05216  
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 Applicants: Locher et al  
 Attorney Docket: (ROS) S11-PC/PC1/US

Box PCT  
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 4, following line 7, insert --

Also known is a "Komax 153 insulation stripping station" which has, arranged side by side, pairs of insulation stripping knives which can be moved in a carriage in the radial direction - with respect to the cable. However, this known insulation stripping station processes cable ends in a procedure in which cables cannot be processed continuously or linearly. Owing to the design of the known structure, no space is available for transporting the cable onward. It is therefore not obvious to combine such a known structure with a conventional continuous cable-processing machine (processing linearly with a front and a rear drive - e.g. rollers). This known apparatus furthermore does not permit reception of any desired tool. Moreover, the movements of the knives are restricted to opening and closing. --.

Page 5, following line 12, insert --/US A4,584,912 and US A5,526,718 also describe a wire cutting and stripping apparatus and process, which is not relevant to the applicant's invention. --.

In the Claims:

Cancel Claims 1 - 38 and insert the attached new Claims 39 - 87.

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 M. C. H.  
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